

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 MC-02 SAM-01

NSC-05 EB-07 /077 R

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NEA/RA:COL.HOBBS/PBULLEN

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TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 219981

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, PO, TC, LE

SUBJECT:EXPORT OF PORTUGUESE ARMS

REF: USNATO 4938

1. IN RESPONSE TO PORTUGUESE REP MACEDO'S REQUEST FOR
COMMENTS ON PORTUGUESE EXPORT OF 10,000 RIFLES TO LEBANON
AND 10,000 RIFLES PLUS 50,000 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION TO THE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, MISSION MAY WISH TO RAISE THE
FOLLOWING POINTS: A) WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THAT THESE
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SHIPMENTS ARE THE PREROGATIVE OF THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT

AND APPRECIATE THE GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL'S CONSULTING WITH ITS ALLIES; B) THESE ARE SIGNIFICANT ORDERS OF RIFLES BUT NOT OF AMMUNITION; C) WE ASSUME THAT THESE WEAPONS ARE NOT MANUFACTURED UNDER LICENSE BY US FIRM; D) THE PORTUGUESE WILL WISH TO CONSIDER WHETHER, GIVEN THE CIVIL STRIFE IN LEBANON, THE SUPPLY OF 10,000 ADDITIONAL RIFLES TO THIS COUNTRY MIGHT NOT BE A DESTABILIZING INFLUENCE IF THE RIFLES WERE TO FALL INTO NON-GOVERNMENTAL HANDS.

2. IT WOULD BE OF INTEREST IF THE MISSION COULD DETERMINE THE END-USER OF THESE ARMS IN LEBANON IF KNOWN TO PORTUGUESE REP. THE APPARENT POSSIBILITIES ARE THAT THEY ARE DESTINED, (1) TO THE ARMY; (2) (MOST PROBABLY) TO THE CHRISTIAN MILITIA; (3) TO MOSLEM MILITIA; (4) INDIRECTLY TOPALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS.

3. ARMS FOR UAE ARE TOTALLY OUT OF PROPORTION TO UAE ARMED FORCES AND KNOWN REQUIREMENTS. AGAIN, IT WOULD BE OF INTEREST IF END-USER COULD BE DETERMINED.

4. AT MISSION'S DISCRETION, US REACTION TO PORTUGUESE REQUEST FOR COMMENTS COULD BE GIVEN PRIVATELY. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SMALL ARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE219981
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DKINNEY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750319-1045
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750948/aaaabqav.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NATO BRUSSELS 4938
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <28 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: XPORT OF PORTUGUESE ARMS
TAGS: PFOR, PO, TC, LE, NATO
To: NATO BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006